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CIA #4793
27 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Chief, Eastern Area Office (DLAAP-4)
The Pentagon, Room 1C930
Defense Intelligence Agency

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SUBJECT : Air Force Proposals Regarding Joint DIA/CIA
Appraisals of the Bombing of North Vietnam

1. I have reviewed the Air Force proposals regarding the joint DIA/CIA monthly report as outlined in General Thomas' letter to General Carroll of 16 May 1967.

2. I would recommend that the response to this letter take the position that the joint monthly report continue in essentially its present form. It should be pointed out that the present format of the joint monthly report conforms to the specific desires of Secretary McNamara. No radical changes in the report should be undertaken unless the request for change emanates from the Office of the Secretary. I would also note that many of the statistical inputs the Air Force is requesting would only serve to refute the Air Force's apparent belief that the bombing programs are reducing logistical support to the Communist forces in Laos and South Vietnam. I am sure that [] and other persons in DIA have already briefed you on the several respects in which Air Force criticism of the monthly report is not justified.

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3. I would also recommend that we avoid undertaking a commitment for a joint DIA/CIA quarterly report that would incorporate the Air Force recommendations and also evaluate all air operations in Southeast Asia. As you know, this Agency already prepares for Secretary McNamara a periodic detailed assessment on US air operations over North Vietnam. Although this report performs much of the analysis the Air Force wants, the distribution of the report is extremely limited by the Secretary of Defense. The Air Force probably could take steps within the Department of Defense to obtain wider dissemination of the report.

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4. A periodic report on all aspects of air operations in Laos and South Vietnam as well as those in North Vietnam would tax severely the resources of both the CIA and DIA components currently involved in joint assessments. Moreover, the detailed statistical analysis requested by the Air Force would be an extremely time-consuming process and would have no meaningful impact on present assessments of the effectiveness of the bombing programs. The mere coordination of innumerable detailed statistics would alone present such problems that it would be almost impossible to maintain any schedule for agreed joint reports.

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**Chief, Trade and Services Division
Office of Research and Reports**

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